

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ABSTRACT**

Elections – Forthcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Telangana State
- Measures to check “Paid News” during elections i.e., advertising in the garb of news in the
Media and related matters - Constitution of State level Media Certification and Monitoring
Committee (MCMC) – Orders – Issued – Regarding.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (ELECTIONS.A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No. 2061

**Dated: 04-10-2018
Read the following:**

1. From the Election Commission of India, New Delhi Order No. 491/Paid News/2012/Media, dated. 27-08-2012.
2. From the Election Commission of India, New Delhi Letter No. 23/LET/ECI/FUNC/ERD-ER/2018, dated. 08-09-2018.
3. From the E.C.I. New Delhi Letter No. 491/Paid News/2018/ Communication, dated. 13-09-2018. (w.e.).
4. This Office Memo No. 1972/Elecs.A/A2/2018-1, dated. 20-09-2018 addressed to all the (31) DEOs in the State on Constitution of Dist.MCMCs.
5. This Office Letter No. 1972/Elecs.A/A2/2018-4, dated. 20-09-2018 addressed to the Secretary, Press Council of India, New Delhi.
6. This Office Letter No. 1972/Elecs.A/A2/2018-5, dated. 20-09-2018 addressed to the Addl.D.G.,P.I.B., M/o Information & Broadcasting, G.O.I. for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad.
7. From Sri T.V.K.Reddy, I.I.S., Addl.D.G., P.I.B., M/o Information & Broadcasting, G.O.I., for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad, Consent Letter No.1/01/2019-H(Elections), dated. 25.09.2018.
8. This Office Letter No. 1972/Elecs.A/A2/2018-9, dated. 29-09-2018 addressed to Prof. K.Stevenson, Head, Dept., of Journalism & Mass Communication, O.U., Hyderabad.
9. This Office Letter No. 1972/Elecs.A/A2/2018-10, dated. 29-09-2018 addressed to Sri M.A.Majid, Sr.Journalist & Member, P.C.I. Hyd.
10. From Prof. K.Stevenson, Head, Dept., of Journalism & Mass Communication, O.U., Hyderabad, Consent Lr.No. Nil, dated. 01-10-2018.
11. From Sri M.A.Majid, Sr.Journalist & Member, P.C.I., Hyderabad, Consent Lr.No. Nil, dated. 01-10-2018.

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ORDER :-

Consequent on dissolution of the Legislative Assembly of Telangana State under Article 174 (2) (b) of the Constitution of India, on 6th September, 2018 communication received vide reference 2nd read above, the Election Commission of India may conduct General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Telangana State at appropriate time.

2. In the reference 3rd read above, the Commission while communicating the Order of the Commission issued in the reference 1st read consequent upon order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in S.L.P.(C) 6679/2004 dated.13-04-2004, wherein the Commission have issued revised guidelines on the measures to check “Paid News” during

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elections i.e., advertisements in the garb of news in Media and related matters directed to constitute the district level Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMCs) in each district and also State level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) during election period to take up the additional task of keeping a check on the cases of Paid News.

3. In the reference 4th read above, all the Collectors & District Election Officers in the State of Telangana and also the Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad & District Election Officer, Hyderabad District have been requested to confirm the constitution of district level Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMCs) in their districts to check "Paid News" and to take up the task of keeping a check on the cases of Paid News for the forthcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Telangana State.

4. The District level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) constituted in the districts during the period of elections will scrutinizes all news papers (Print Media) and TV channels (Electronic Media) in the districts in order to identify the political advertisements in the garb of news coverage. At the same time, it certifies the advertisements of electronic media in respect of the said district. If the decision of the District MCMC is not acceptable to the candidate, he/she may appeal to the State level MCMC within 48 hours of receipt of the decision, with information to the District level MCMC. The State level MCMC will examine all cases of Paid News on appeal and it may take up suo moto cases, in which it directs the concerned Returning Officer to issue notice to the candidate. The candidate may appeal against the decision of State level MCMC to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi within 48 hours of receiving of order from the State level MCMC. The decision of the Commission is final.

5. As per the instructions of the Commission issued at Para No. 2.1 of the Order dated. 27-08-2012, under reference 1st read above, the State level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) shall comprise of the following officers:

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| (a) The Chief Electoral Officer | Chairman |
| (b) Any Observer appointed by the E.C.I. | Member |
| (C) One Expert to be co-opted by the Committee..... | Member |
| (d) Officer of Indian Information Service (IIS)..... | Member |
| (at the level of US/DS) posted in the State, Representing a media
Department of G.O.I., as separate from the expert at (c) above | |
| (e) Independent Citizen or Journalist as nominated
by P.C.I. (if any) | Member |
| (f) Addl. / Jt.CEO in charge of Media | Member Secretary |

6. In pursuance of the above instructions of the Commission, the State level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) is hereby constituted to check "Paid News" in Media and related matters and to decide the appeals cases from both District and State Level Addl./Jt.CEO Committees on Certification of advertisement as per the Commission's Order dated 27.08.2012 and also to examine all cases of Paid News on appeal against the decision of District level MCMC or cases that they may take up suo motu, in which case, to

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direct the concerned Returning Officers to issue notices to the candidates in connection with the conduct of the forthcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Telangana State with the following Officers as members of the State level MCMC constituted for the said purpose.

- 1) Dr. Rajat Kumar I.A.S., ... Chairman
Chief Electoral Officer
- 2) Any Observer appointed by the E.C.I. ... Member
- 3) Prof. K.Stevenson, ... Member
Head, Department of Journalism & Mass Communication,
Osmania University, Hyderabad.
{ Being the Expert to be co-opted by the Committee to fulfil the
point no.(c) of Para No. 2.1. of the Commission's Order,
dated. 27-08-2012. }
- 4) Sri T.V.K.Reddy I.I.S., ... Member
Addl. Director General, Press Information Bureau,
M/o Information & Broadcasting, G.O.I. for Telangana State, at Hyd.
- 5) Sri M.A.Majid, Senior Journalist & ... Member
Member, Press Council of India, Hyderabad.
{ Being the Independent Citizen or Journalist & Member of PCI
to fulfil the point no.(e) of Para No. 2.1. of the Commission's Order,
dated. 27-08-2012. }
- 6) Buddha Prakash Jyoti I.A.S., ... Member Secretary
Addl. Chief Electoral Officer

7. A copy of the Commission's Order No. 491/Paid News/2012/Media, dated. 27-08-2012, under reference 1st read above is appended to this Order for strict compliance.

8. The Committee constituted above shall remain in force till further orders.

9. The above orders are available on Website www.ceotelangana.nic.in

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF TELANGANA STATE)

**Dr. RAJAT KUMAR
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER &
E.O PRL. SECRETARY TO GOVT.**

To

The Members of the Committee concerned.

All the Collectors & District Election Officers in the State of Telangana.

(except Collector, Hyderabad District)

The Commissioner, G.H.M.C., Hyderabad & District Election Officer, Hyderabad District.

All the Political Parties in the State of Telangana (State & National)

All the Television Channels / Cable Network / Private F.M. Radios

{Through the Commissioner, Information & Public Relations Department, Telangana State, Hyderabad)

All the Members of the Pre-Certification Committee constituted.

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Copy to :

1. The Commissioner, Information & Public Relations Department, Telangana State, Samachar Bhavan, A.C.Guards, Hyderabad – 500 004.
2. The Deputy Director General, Prasar Bharthi, Door Darshan Kendra, Telangana State, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad – 500 013.
3. The Station Director, Prasar Bharthi, All India Radio, Saifabad, Hyderabad – 500004
4. Addl.Director General, Press Information Bureau, M/o Information & Broadcasting, G.O.I., for the State of Telangana, at Room No.203, 2nd Floor, C.G.O. Towers, Kavadiguda, Hyderabad – 500 080.
5. The Secretary, Press Council of India, Soochana Bhavan, 8-C, C.G.Os Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003.
6. All the Officers in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana State.
7. Sri E.Venkatesham, Deputy Director, I & PR Department, Telangana State & Nodal Officer of the O/o the CEO, T.S.
8. Project Manager, I.T., O/o the CEO, T.S.
9. Sri Pawan Diwan, Under Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001.
10. Sri Rajan Jain, Under Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110001.
11. Spare -1.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER